

KU Center for East Asian Studies

NewsNotes

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The Original Godzilla comes to Lawrence

Uncut, original Godzilla film to be screened October 28!



Gojira, the rarely seen 1954 film that launched the Godzilla franchise, will be shown as part of the festivities for “In Godzilla’s Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage.” The screening will be held on Thursday, October 28 at 7:30pm in Liberty Hall in downtown Lawrence; admission is free and open to the public.

One of the world’s classic monster movies, *Gojira* is a sober reflection on the dangers of nuclear weaponry, the painful legacies of war, and the consequences of humankind’s disregard for the environment. The story of a giant reptilian monster created by H-bomb testing, *Gojira* was made as a star-studded, big-budget blockbuster featuring special effects that remain impressive even fifty years later.

Few American moviegoers are familiar with *Gojira*, since the original Japanese film was not released in the United States. Instead, *Gojira* was heavily re-edited, with many powerful scenes left on the cutting-room floor, and extensive new footage featuring Raymond Burr as an American reporter in monster-ravaged Tokyo was added in. The resulting feature, entitled *Godzilla, King of the Monsters*, premiered in New York City in 1956 and has, for fifty years, been mistakenly considered the “first” Godzilla movie by many American fans.

The film to be screened in Lawrence is a new print of the original 1954 *Gojira*, uncut and unedited, but with new subtitles. Join us, on the occasion of Godzilla’s fiftieth birthday, in celebrating the creature’s remarkable – and seldom seen – cinematic debut.



CEAS Hosts Journey to Chicago

Nancy Hope, Sheree Willis, Lea Herron and Jun Fu traveled to Chicago on September 11th to meet with personnel from the Consulate General of The People’s Republic of China in Chicago to discuss how the Consulate could facilitate CEAS educational outreach initiatives. Zhu Honqing and Zhang Zhigang, Consul and Vice Consul for Education respectively, met with the CEAS staff members during a dinner in Chicago’s Chinatown. The banquet was hosted by the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia (KCTA).

Twenty elementary and secondary schoolteachers from Kansas and western Missouri who had previously completed the East Asia Institute for Teachers (EALC 790/HIST 801) taught by Bill Tsutsui and Nancy Hope, were along on this trip. The teachers had flown into Chicago that morning to see the “Splendors of China’s Forbidden City: the Glorious Reign of Emperor Qianlong” exhibit *See Chicago, p. 2*



Teri Fulton, a fifth grade teacher at New Chelsea Elementary School in Kansas City, KS took this photograph of her students. They are holding up flyers she brought back of the Forbidden City exhibit with the painting of Emperor Qianlong after a lesson about the Forbidden City.

An Education in Japanese on the Beach

Owen Grieb shares with us his summer in Hawaii. Owen received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship from CEAS to take intensive Japanese this summer.

Studying Japanese in Hawaii was a good way to spend my summer for many reasons. There are actually two mini-semesters (they call them summer sessions I and II in Hawaii) during the summer, both of which are only a month long. “Yaruki ga aru hito” (those who are into studying) are advised to take two classes during both semesters. This way you can get 12 credits out of the way while improving your Japanese.

Having nothing to do during the evenings, I got a part-time job with a dive shop which caters to Japanese customers. This was a good way to earn a bit of extra money, keep up with a hobby I’m interested in (diving), and practice my Japanese. I have never taken a “conversational Japanese” course during college, but I have been able to polish my conversational skills through extracurricular activities such as work and hanging out with Japanese friends. Having a part-time job here in Hawaii is a good way to make sure that you don’t fall into an “island lull” and find yourself not doing homework or sitting around watching TV. It’s a good thing to bring some of that Midwestern work-ethic with you!

During the first session I took Japanese reading (a 400 level class) plus beginning Chinese. I would not recommend the Chinese class for people with no experience with Chinese, because Chinese is an incredibly difficult language to begin with, and with the summer session you are cramming an entire semester worth of Chinese into one month. I spent 3+ hours per evening alone with my Chinese textbook and CD-player, and would not wish to repeat the experience. I cannot even imagine the experiences of other students who had had no prior kanji experience.

The Japanese reading class is just what it sounds like—reading. The teacher selects readings from different media (newspapers, poetry, history textbooks, etc.) and it’s up to you to memorize the readings of the kanji and absorb new grammar. I enjoy reading Japanese newspapers and learning new Japanese characters, so I enjoyed the class, but those who have never lived in Japan and thus might have trouble speaking Japanese might be advised to take the 300-level classes. There were, according to the teacher, a lot of bilingual students in the reading class, and the class is challenging. An unfortunate result of the class being focused on reading is that you don’t spend much time communicating with your fellow students. The class is basically one-way communication between the teacher and the students.

Hawaii is a nexus between East and West and a great place to improve your Japanese. Reading the signs that

say “handicapped only” on the bus in Japanese and reading menus in Japanese at various restaurants is a good, subconscious way to study Japanese. Compared to Lawrence, which outside of University affiliations and sister-city societies basically has zero ties with Japan, Honolulu and especially Waikiki are teeming with Japanese tourists, restaurants, and businesses. In fact, the “brand shops” of Waikiki (Prada, Burberry, etc.) that seem to attract Japanese tourists remind me of the pricey shopping districts of Japan and it is possible to walk an entire block in Waikiki and see only Japanese faces. Sometimes you feel like you’re in Tokyo, until the shirtless, helmetless 300-pound tattooed hippy drives past you on his Harley-Davidson, and then you realize you’re in America after all.

The downside with Honolulu is that rent is expensive. I paid \$850 per month for my 1-bedroom apartment. Part-time jobs do not pay very well here, and it’s very difficult to find a reasonable apartment for a student budget. Some of the apartments I viewed for \$750 were in bad neighborhoods and had dead cockroaches on the floors when I viewed them. I finally found the apartment I settled on by going to the University Off-Campus Housing Center and pestering the off-campus apartment coordinator to help me find an apartment. Apparently, off-campus housing thinks that they have done their duty by just telling students to “look at the webpage” (which is very difficult to use). In order to actually get a list of apartments near the university you must go to the office in person and make some noise. A friend of mine had a similar experience with off-campus housing, so I’m pretty sure this is a standard experience. Of course, if you think you would enjoy living in the rabbit-hutches (the dorms) for the summer, you could take your chances, but you might end up getting stuck with fraternity boy roommates from the mainland who are taking weightlifting for 2 credits. Or get stuck with a roommate who smokes all of the time, has no job but keeps trying to borrow money from you (one of my friends had this experience). Being a little older (26), I don’t want to go back to that lifestyle.

Apartments usually want you to sign a 6 month lease, but apartments turn over fast here and when you break the lease early it shouldn’t be a problem to find new tenants for the apartment. When you first get to Hawaii, I would advise staying in conference housing for \$30 a night. You get an internet connection, a shared bathroom, and your own room, which is basically all you need.

I would give a thumbs-up to studying Japanese at UH for the summer.

Owen Grieb

MA Candidate, East Asian Languages and Cultures

All KU graduate students are encouraged to apply for a FLAS. The application is at www.ceas.ku.edu/flas.shtml.

New Faculty Profile: Sanae Eda

Sanae Eda joins the faculty of the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department this year. Eda will teach Japanese language courses. This fall, she will teach second and fourth year Japanese, and in the spring will teach a Japanese language pedagogy course.

KU students have already impressed Eda with their hard work. She explained that they “try hard to learn and are very conscientious.”

She received her Ph.D. this year from The Ohio State University in East Asian Languages and Literatures, with a concentration in Japanese language pedagogy and phonetics. Prior to this, she earned an M.A. in East Asian Languages and Literatures at OSU, and an M.A.Ed. in English Education from University of Puerto Rico. She holds a B.A. in English Language Education from Hiroshima University, and grew up in a small village in the mountains of Okayama prefecture.

Eastern Civilizations leads to Career in Japanese Business

In the mid-1990s, David Peterson was a sociology major at KU. He took Eastern Civilizations as his non-western requirement and found that he was fascinated by Japan. As time went on, his interest in contemporary Japan, particularly in Japanese subculture groups, grew and he decided he “just wanted to go to Japan.” He enrolled in the annual KU Summer Institute at Kanagawa University in Hiratsuka Japan for summer 1997.

Peterson found the experience invaluable, noting that the KU faculty in Hiratsuka provided a “great introduction to Japan. I’m really indebted to them.” The experience of the five week program furthered his desire to learn even more about Japan.

He returned that fall semester to KU to complete his thesis and was encouraged by his professors to apply for the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) program. Peterson was accepted for the 1998-1999 school year, and stayed in Japan three years teaching junior high English in the Saitama prefecture. He has since returned and continues to keep close contact with his host family.

While researching his MA thesis at the University of Chicago, he saw a job posting on the Japan External Trade Organization website. He applied for the job, and has been working for JETRO Chicago since November, 2002.

Now a project manager, David was able to bring his expertise about Japan to KU this spring, when the Center for East Asian Studies hosted *Viewpoint Japan: East Asian Economic (R)evolution*.

This summer, University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway traveled with a delegation from KU to Japan and Korea. Pictured at left are Mary Weinberg, Joe Pierron, CEAS affiliate Dale Slusser, Dean Diana Carlin, Jeff Weinberg, and Chancellor Hemenway.



Eda has also taught Japanese Summer School at Middlebury College for a number of years and taught Japanese at Valparaiso University last year.

In addition to speaking Japanese and English, Eda also speaks Chinese and Spanish.

Eda spends her spare time in a variety of physical activities. A self-described “jock,” she is currently training for a marathon. She played college basketball and tennis in Japan, and also enjoys Aikido. She is also quite skilled in website design and calligraphy.

In addition to her involvement with EALC, her home department, she is excited about working closely with the KU linguistics department. She will present “Analysis of Japanese sentence-final particles *ne* and *yo*” on October 25 at 3:30 p.m. in 206 Blake Hall as part of the Linguistics Colloquy Series.

Chicago, from p. 1

at Chicago’s Field Museum. (See: <http://www.fieldmuseum.org/forbiddencity/>) Then they explored Chinatown on their own before enjoying the delicious banquet. Many bought teaching materials for their classrooms—paper lanterns, chopsticks, and moon cakes to name a few. Several said they planned to return to make additional purchases in the future.

This trip was underwritten by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont. Selection for participation was by a competitive process; teachers had to explain how the experience would enhance the Chinese content in their own curriculum or in their schools in general. Additionally, the presence of so many motivated teachers at the dinner helped to demonstrate to Consulate personnel the growing interest in China in Kansas and western Missouri.

In the days following the meeting, CEAS received several boxes of teaching materials from the Consulate. It was an auspicious beginning to what hopefully will be a mutually advantageous relationship.

by Nancy Hope

October 2004 CEASE Events:

10/1 **“Women’s Health Reforms and Eugenics in Meiji Japan”** by Yuki Terazawa, Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies, Hofstra University. 11:30 a.m., Kansas Room, Kansas Union.

10/3 **“Japanese Music Through Time.”** Performances on koto, shamisen, kokyū, biwa, shakuhachi, and voice by Kyokuichi Kai, Yoko Hiraoka and David Wheeler. 7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall, Murphy Hall. Free.

10/5 **“Japanese Manga and American Comics: The Pop Culture Mind-Meld”** by Frederik Schodt, 7:30 p.m., Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

10/6 **Tokou**, Creative Calligrapher, will present a demonstration of her creative process and a discussion. 3:00 p.m. 421 Art and Design Building.

10/7 Wine and Cheese: **“Village Elections in China: Local Democracy or a Hollow National Policy?”** John Kennedy, assistant professor of political science. 4:00 p.m., Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread Ave.

10/7 Film: **“Princess Mononoke,”** 7:00 p.m., Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.

10/8 Advanced Language Maintenance talk in Japanese. **“Social Problems and Technology in Japan”** by Tatsuo Kasuya, Research Assistant, The University of Kansas. 11:30-12:30, Alcove C (level 3), Kansas Union

10/18 A reading from *Godzilla on My Mind* by William Tsutsui, 7:00 p.m., Lawrence Public Library.

10/20 Advanced Language Maintenance talk in Chinese. **“Similarities Between China and the United States,”** Yong Bai, CEA Engineering. 4:00 p.m., Rm 201, Bailey Hall.

10/26 **“Zodgyra and the Seven Deadly Sins.”** Ten-Minute Plays by KU Students. A staged reading presented by English Alternative Theatre. 8:00 p.m., Lawrence Arts Center Auditorium.

10/28 Free public showing of **Gojira**, the original Godzilla film on the big screen at Liberty Hall. 7:30 p.m.

10/29 - 10/30 ***In Godzilla’s Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage.*** 8:15 a.m., Lawrence Arts Center Auditorium.

10/29 Free public showing of **Godzilla vs. the Smog Monster** (a.k.a. *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*). 7:30 p.m., Liberty Hall

10/30 Free public showing of **Godzilla, Mothra, and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack.** 7:30 pm, Liberty Hall

Pop Goes Godzilla: Japanese Pop Culture and Globalization continues at the Spencer Museum of Art throughout October.

For more Godzilla news, go to: www.g2004.net/godzilla/.

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